

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1. (currently amended) A method for selecting an operating mode of a telephony system that is used in a closed facility and is communicatively-coupled to the Internet, comprising:

detecting at least one person within a predetermined area, the area being associated with a telephone device in the telephony system;

communicating a detection signal to the telephony system responsive to detecting the at least one person; [[and]]

operating the telephony system in a first operating mode responsive to the absence of the detection signal, and in a second operating mode responsive to receipt of the detection signal; and communicating via the Internet in response to the first or second operating mode.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further including displaying a first data set in the first operating mode, and a second data set in the second operating mode.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim [[2]]1, wherein the second data set is different than the first data set, and wherein displaying is one of: remote from the predetermined area, and simultaneously remote to and within the predetermined area detecting at least one person includes identifying and authenticating the identity of the at least one person.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further including disabling at least one of the operating modes in response to an inactive-user condition.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, further including detecting that said at least one person is no longer within the predetermined area to provide the inactive-user condition.

6. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the first and second data sets each include operational mode information, and occupancy information for the predetermined area.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein operational mode information includes status of [[a]]the telephone device located within the predetermined area.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein status includes information concerning at least one condition selected from the group consisting of: call-waiting, call-transfer, voice mail, “do not disturb,” telephone device malfunction, and off-hook.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further including automatically routing calls designating a destination identifier over the Internet to a first telephone device in the first operating mode, and to a second telephone device in the second operating mode.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the second telephone device is a telephone set located within the predetermined area.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the first telephone device is ~~one of:~~ a ~~voice mail box, cellular telephone, pager, and telephone set located outside the predetermined area.~~

12. (original) The method of claim 9, further including identifying the at least one detected person.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, further including selecting the first and second telephone devices responsive to the destination identifier and detected presence of the at least one identified person.

14. (currently amended) A telephony system that is used in a closed facility and is communicatively-coupled to the Internet and has having a selectable operating mode, comprising:
means for detecting at least one person within a predetermined area, the area being associated with the telephony system;
means for communicating a detection signal to the telephony system responsive to detecting the at least one person; [[and]]

means for operating the telephony system in a first operating mode responsive to the absence of the detection signal, and in a second operating mode responsive to receipt of the detection signal; and

means for communicating via the Internet in response to the first or second operating mode.

15. (original) The telephony system of claim 14, further comprising means for displaying a first data set in the first operating mode, and a second data set in the second operating mode.

16. (currently amended) The telephony system of claim 14, further comprising means for automatically routing calls designating a destination identifier over the Internet to a first telephone device in the first operating mode, and to a second telephone device in the second operating mode.

17. (original) The telephony system of claim 14, further comprising means for identifying the at least one detected person.

18. (currently amended) A telephony system used in a closed facility having a selectable operating mode, comprising:

a detection circuit adapted to detect at least one person within a predetermined area, the area being associated with the telephony system;

a communication circuit adapted to communicate a detection signal to the telephony system responsive to detecting the at least one person; and

a controller arrangement including an internet-communication interface adapted to operate the telephony system in a first operating mode responsive to the absence of the detection signal, and in a second operating mode responsive to receipt of the detection signal.

19. (original) The telephony system of claim 18, further comprising a display arrangement adapted to display a first data set in the first operating mode, and a second data set in the second operating mode.

20. (currently amended) The telephony system of claim 18, further comprising a routing circuit adapted to automatically route calls designating a destination identifier over the Internet to a first telephone device in the first operating mode, and to a second telephone device in the second operating mode.

21. (original) The telephony system of claim 18, further comprising an identification circuit adapted to identify the at least one detected person.

22. (original) The telephony system of claim 18, further including means, responsive to an inactive-user condition, for disabling at least one of the operating modes.

23. (original) The telephony system of claim 22, further including means for detecting that said at least one person is no longer within the predetermined area to provide the inactive-user condition.

24. (new) The telephony system of claim 1, wherein detecting at least one person includes identifying and authenticating the identity of the at least one person and automatically configuring a computer for use by the at least one person according to profile information established for the at least one person.